

Lake, and another at an undisclosed location.

Uranium Resources reported that Bill McKnight has retired; Rick Van Horn, recently of Umetco, has been named Senior VP-Operations.

URI had 17 drills working in April, all in south Texas.

US Energy announced the election of former US Senator, Alan Simpson of Wyoming, to its board of directors.

Ray Harris of the **Wyoming State Geological Survey**, has completed and released a report on uranium occurrences in Sublette County. The report, RM-97-1, not only describes the county's occurrences, but it also includes general information about the geochemistry of uranium minerals as well as the mining, milling, enrichment and uses of uranium.

According to the report, uranium occurs in Tertiary sandstones in the Green River Basin, in the Permian Phosphoria formation, and in Precambrian rocks. The only recorded uranium production in the county was during the mid-1950s when 300 tons were mined from the Pard Mine in the east-central part of the county.

This report is the sixth in a series of county-by-county reports by the WSGS. □

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Coal

Panel rejects application for Powder River Basin mine

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — Wyoming, Montana and federal officials rejected an application by a company proposing to start a new mine in the Powder River Basin.

Evergreen Enterprises wants to start a mine that would employ an estimated 200 people with an annual payroll of \$15 million at the 8,500-acre site in the region.

But an intergovernmental advisory board composed of the governors from Wyoming and Montana, and officials from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management said the company's proposal was too speculative, and was incompatible with oil and gas wells on the site.

The decision means the company — which wants to start the area's 19th surface coal mine by 2015 — will have to wait another year before getting a favorable vote.

Meanwhile, the intergovernmental group approved two other coal lease requests.

The advisory board approved coal leases for Kennecott's 178 million ton, 1,470-acre Horse Creek tract at Antelope Mine, and Cyprus Amax's 200 million ton, 1,578-acre maintenance tract at Belle Ayr Mine.

Each mine's life would be extended about eight years based on current and planned

mining practices, those two companies say.

Neither proposal includes additional hiring at the mines.

The proposed project by Evergreen was challenged repeatedly by the panel members on the company's economic projections.

Thomas Woodward, owner of the company, said new mines would be needed as the recoverable reserves at the basin's 18 active mines start to run out in about 15 years.

Furthermore, Woodward argued the price of all energy will double in the next 10 years — oil to \$50 a barrel, natural gas to \$4 to \$5 per thousand cubic feet and Powder River Basin coal to about \$8.

But the current board members and other non-voting advisors challenged those figures.

"Can you show me the money," quipped ex-officio panelist Lyle Rising.

Bob Bennett, a voting member with the Wyoming BLM, said the company hadn't provided enough drilling data about the proposed lease parcel proving the need for a new mine, and resolved land-use conflicts with existing oil and gas wells. □

Wyoming coal lease proposal gets good review from feds

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — A mining expansion project in northeastern Wyoming should

US Energy's Shootaring Canyon mill gets license

US Energy Corporation of Riverton, Wyo., announced May 5 that its wholly-owned subsidiary, **Plateau Resources**, had been notified that the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been issued a source material license to allow the resumption of operations at the **Shootaring Canyon uranium mill in southeastern Utah**.

US Energy's Chairman, John L. Larsen, said, "Not only is this a major positive event for our company, but this is also the first time ever for the American uranium industry that a uranium mill has received a license to revert from standby to operational. **The uranium stockpiles and ores delineated in the nearby underground mines**, which Plateau owns, will generate at present uranium prices well in excess of \$10 million, and additional profits from toll milling from other producers in the area."

Larsen said US Energy technical employees worked for several months to obtain the license. The license renewal will autho-

rize Plateau to initially resume operating the Shootaring Canyon mill at a production rate of about 1 million pounds of yellowcake annually.

The 750 tpd mill was built in 1982 and was operated for only two months before it was placed in the standby mode. The mill is capable of operating at rates in excess of 1,000 tpd. Plateau has increased its cash bond for reclamation from \$2.55 million to \$6.79 million in order to obtain the operating license, and has an additional \$1.6 million in government securities that can be used as may be required for additional bonding.

Plateau's reactivation program includes the reconstruction of its nine wooden, acid-leach tanks, replacing failed water lines, updating computer control systems, testing the underflow density and level gauges, and the reactivation of the on-site, state-of-the-art electrical generating system. Plateau has engaged a full-time radiation safety officer to monitor activity at the mill. □